

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Michael HOURN; Rodrigo VENTURA;
John WILLIS and David WINBORNE

Examiner:
Melvyn Andrews

Serial No: 09/831,355

Group Art Unit: 1742

Filed : May 14, 2001

For : METHOD FOR TREATING PRECIOUS
METAL BEARING MINERALS

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of June 19, 2002,
please amend the above-noted application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 12, 13, 17 and 23 as shown on
the marked-up set of claims. A clean copy of all pending claims
is enclosed.

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-24 are pending, and claims
1, 17 and 23 have been amended.

The courtesies extended to applicants' representative
during the interview of August 16, 2002, are acknowledged with
appreciation.

The Examiner rejected claims 17 and 23 for the
limitation of "any precious metal" and "gold", respectively. By
this amendment, antecedents have been provided in the claims for
these terms.

The Examiner rejected claims 22 and 24 as being
anticipated by or obvious over Simmons (U.S. Patent 5,536,480)
or Australian Patent No. 73192/87. Also, claims 1-24 were
rejected as obvious over Australian Patent No. 73192/87 in view
of Simmons. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

9/3
11/04/02

RECEIVED
OCT 15 2002
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1100

11/04/2002 RG/HLS/JP 00000003 09831355
01 FC:1251